programme to be taken up for a range of issues in Public Health. Funding of this programme will be as per specific proposals from School/Block/Districts converging into State plans. The broad framework for implementation, *inter-alia*, highlights coverage of health, nutrition and health education in school curriculum as key issues.

Health problems due to close proximity to roads

89. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that life close to roads affects development of lungs among the children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to spread awareness among residents who are in close proximity to roads to control the risks of health effects among the children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research the studies carried out in western world suggests that life close to roads, affects development of lungs among the children. The developing lung is highly susceptible to damage from exposure to environmental toxicants particularly due to the protected maturation of the respiratory system. Living near traffic pollution results in inhalation of more of the ultra fine particles and carbon emitted from vehicle exhausts, particularly from diesel furmes, which get deep into the lungs. The main chemical component of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) which is of major concern is lead. Lead is especially hazardous to small children. Toxic chemicals are also present in traffic pollution, such as nitrogen dioxide which affects the ability of the lungs to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide with the bloodstream. From time to time workshops and seminars are conducted by the Government to increase the awareness among general population regarding ill effects of air pollution.

Causes of HIV/AIDS vulnerability

90. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that youth indulging in pre-marital sex and sex outside marriage are adding to the high rise HIV/AIDS figure;

(b) whether our current policies and plans do not address vulnerabilities of this group of people to this menace; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that unsafe sexual practices by youth increases their risk of acquiring HIV infection.

(b) and (c) Mass media and inter personal channels are used to disseminate messages on HIV prevention among young people. The adolescence education programme in

schools aims at building up life skills and addresses issues relating to HIV prevention. Formation of red ribbon clubs and participation of youth organizations such as Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Service Scheme (NSS), and National Cadet Corps (NCC) for dissemination of HIV prevention messages is part of the strategy to address vulnerabilities of the youth to the risk of HIV/AIDS.

Single Monitoring Body for PG Medical Education

91. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present the standard of doctors acquiring post graduate degrees varies from college to college, State to State and university to university;

(b) whether two types of PG medical degrees viz. MD and MS are being awarded by medical colleges and diplomas are being awarded by the National Board of Examination;

(c) if so, whether Government have now set up a single independent body overseeing all PG medical education, as the country is becoming the Centre of International healthcare; and

(d) what are the main recommendations made by the Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At present post graduate medical qualifications namely Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Master of Surgery (M.S.), Doctorate of Medicine (D.M.), Magister of Chirurgie (M.Ch.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) and diploma in different specialties/subjects are awarded by the various universities of the country. The National Board of Examinations awards Diplomate National Board qualifications in various specialties.

(c) and (d) In order to examine and make recommendations on the need for constitution of an Independent Authority to organize and regulate Post Graduate Medical Education in the country and to maintain the standard of country and to maintain the standard of Post Graduate Medical Diplomas and Degrees awarded by different Universities in the country including Diplomate Degree awarded by the National Board of Examinations, the Central Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury. The Committee has submitted its report which is under examination.

Bird-flu control measures

92. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have earmarked Rs. 134.78 crores for checking bird-flu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the enormity of this menace in the country; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to control its rising trend?